

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1263 without my signature.

I strongly support ensuring the safety of pedicure patrons, however, this measure presents more problems than it solves. While some provisions in this bill are duplicative of existing regulations, it also contains provisions that could significantly harm innocent businesses. This bill could shift responsibility for ensuring the safety of equipment from manufacturers to the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board), which may have the unintended consequence of placing the Board in the position of assuming liability, in lieu of the manufacturer, for pedicure equipment.

To ensure the safety of pedicure patrons, I am directing the Department of Consumer Affairs to convene a working group consisting of the Board, county health officials, consumer groups, and pedicure equipment manufacturers, and other interested parties, to determine how we can improve the safety of pedicure equipment and ensure appropriate consumer protection without the unintended consequences created by this bill.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger